

Please replace the Abstract beginning on page 20 with the following rewritten Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for interconnecting multiple VPNs, each using multiple service providers, while offering a minimum standard of end-to-end connection quality and reliability is described. The system and method utilizes an overseer that resolves end-to-end issues across multiple interconnected virtual private networks. When connecting multiple virtual private networks, multiple interconnect providers are interconnected so that the end-to-end service quality standard is met. The certification of service providers, exchange points, transit service providers and IPSec devices permits interoperability for encryption, integrity and authentication across the product of all IPSec vendors. When two subscribers both use certified IPSec equipment then they can provide each other with controlled access to each other's networks.